

The Dean's House
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Dean's House
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: Princeton University

Date of Erection: 1756

Architect: Robert Smith

Builder:

Present condition: Very good

Number of stories: Two and one-half

Materials of construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - front, west
side, and rear brick; east
side - brick covered with
random width siding

Interior walls - plaster and
panel; the interior practic-
ally as built

Floors - random width

Two baywindows on east and
west sides are recent addi-
tion

Roof - slate, pitch

Historical Data:

The Dean's House was contemporary with
Nassau Hall and was occupied by all the presidents

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of the University except Jonathan Dickinson until 1879; since then it has been the official residence of the Dean of the Faculty.

Aaron Burr spent a year of his infancy here during his father's presidency of the college. John Adams visited President Witherspoon on his way to the Continental Congress in 1774. In all probability Washington visited Witherspoon when he was living at Rocky Hill. A story is told about Henry Clay during a visit he made to Princeton; as he sat on one of the chairs in the library, of the president's house, it collapsed and Clay is reported to have remarked that he hoped that the chairs of the college were more stable; undoubtedly, the president of the college breathed a silent prayer to that effect.

Bibliography:

Collins, V.L. Princeton Past and Present
Princeton University Press, 1931

DATA NOT CHECKED AND NOT REPRODUCED
BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Approved:

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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.T.A.
District Officer

Reviewed
Sept 2, 1936
H.W.